Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Previously Presented)   A method of controlling communications with at least two calling party devices by a user of a called party device, said method comprising the steps of:

establishing a first call link between said called party device and a first calling party device;

receiving a call request to said called party device from a second calling party device;

placing said first call link on hold;

accepting said call request from said second calling party device to establish a second call link between said called party device and said second calling party device;

causing, through the selective activation by said user of said called party device, a message to be transmitted to said first calling party device, said step of causing a message to be transmitted to said first calling party device comprising the step of said user selecting one of a plurality of predefined messages using an input mechanism associated with said called party device while said called party device is in communication with said second calling party device, whereby said user of said called party device can communicate information to a user of said first calling party device without interrupting communications with a user of said second calling party device.

2.   (Original)   The method recited in Claim 1, wherein said message instructs said user of said first calling party device to hold.

3.   (Original)   The method recited in Claim 1, wherein said message instructs said user of said first calling party device that said call link to said called party device will be disconnected.

4.   (Original)   The method recited in Claim 3, further comprising the step of automatically causing said first call link to be terminated.

5.   (Original)   The method recited in Claim 1, wherein said message instructs said user of said first calling party device to leave a message.

6.   (Original)   The method recited in Claim 4, further comprising the step of automatically causing said first calling party device to be connected to a messaging system associated with said user of said called party device.

7.   (Original)   The method recited in Claim 1, wherein said message comprises a prerecorded voice message.

8.   (Cancelled)

9.   (Original)   The method recited in Claim 1, wherein said step of causing a message to be transmitted to said first calling party device comprises the step of said user generating a text message using an input mechanism associated with said called party device.

10.   (Original)   The method recited in Claim 9, further comprising the step of converting said text message to speech.

11.   (Original)   The method recited in Claim 1, wherein said call links between said called party device and said calling party devices are established through a packet-switched communications network.

12.   (Original)   The method recited in Claim 11 wherein said call links are established using an Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) Session Initiation Protocol (SIP).

13.   (Previously Presented)   A communications device for receiving and controlling communications with at least two calling party devices by a user thereof, said communications device comprising:

means for establishing a first call link between said communications device and a first calling party device;

means for receiving a call request to said communications device from a second calling party device;

means for placing said first call link on hold;

means for accepting said call request from said second calling party device to establish a second call link between said communications device and said second calling party device;

means for causing, through the selective activation by said user of said called party device, a message to be transmitted to said first calling party device, said means for causing a message to be transmitted to said first calling party device comprising means for said user of said communications device to select one of a plurality of predefined messages using an input mechanism associated with said communications device while said communications device is in communication with said second calling party device, whereby said user of said communications device can communicate information to a user of said first calling party device without interrupting communications with a user of said second calling party device.

14.   (Original)   The communications device recited in Claim 13 wherein said message instructs said user of said first calling party device to hold.

15.   (Original)   The communications device recited in Claim 13 wherein said message instructs said user of said first calling party device that said call link to said communications device will be disconnected.

16.   (Original)   The communications device recited in Claim 15 further comprising means for automatically causing said first call link to be terminated.

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17.   (Original)   The communications device recited in Claim 13 wherein said message instructs said user of said first calling party device to leave a message.

18.   (Original)   The communications device recited in Claim 17 further comprising means for automatically causing said first calling party device to be connected to a messaging system associated with said user of said communications device.

19.   (Original)   The communications device recited in Claim 13, wherein said message comprises a prerecorded voice message.

20.   (Cancelled)

21.   (Original)   The communications device recited in Claim 13, wherein said means for causing a message to be transmitted to said first calling party device comprises means for said user of said communications device to generate a text message using an input mechanism associated with said communications device.

22.   (Original)   The communications device recited in Claim 21, further comprising means for converting said text message to speech.

23.   (Original)   The communications device recited in Claim 13, wherein said call links between said communications device and said calling party devices are established through a packet-switched communications network.

24.   (Previously Presented)   The communications device recited in Claim 23, wherein said call links are established using an Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) Session Initiation Protocol (SIP).

25. (Previously Presented)   A method of controlling communications with at least two remote telephony devices by a user of a telephony device, said method comprising the steps of:

establishing a first call link between a first remote telephony device and said telephony device;

establishing a second call link between a second remote telephony device and said telephony device; and,

while said first call link is on hold and said telephony device is in communication with said second remote telephony device, causing, through the selective activation by said user of said telephony device, a message to be transmitted to said first remote telephony device, said step of causing a message to be transmitted to said remote telephony device comprising the step of said user selecting one of a plurality of predefined messages using an input mechanism associated with said telephony device while said telephony device is in communication with said second remote telephony device, whereby said user of said telephony device can communicate information to a user of said first remote telephony device without interrupting communications with a user of said second remote telephony device.

26. (Previously Presented)   The method recited in Claim 25, wherein said message instructs said user of said first remote telephony device to hold.

27. (Previously Presented)   The method recited in Claim 25, wherein said message instructs said user of said first remote telephony device that said call link to said telephony device will be disconnected.

28. (Previously Presented)   The method recited in Claim 27, further comprising the step of automatically causing said first call link to be terminated.

29. (Previously Presented)   The method recited in Claim 25, wherein said message instructs said user of said first remote telephony device to leave a message.

30.   (Previously Presented)   The method recited in Claim 28, further comprising the step of automatically causing said first remote telephony device to be connected to a messaging system associated with said user of said telephony device.

31.   (Previously Presented)   The method recited in Claim 25, wherein said message comprises a prerecorded voice message.

32.   (Previously Presented)   The method recited in Claim 25, wherein said step of causing a message to be transmitted to said first remote telephony device comprises the step of said user generating a text message using an input mechanism associated with said telephony device.

33.   (Previously Presented)   The method recited in Claim 32, further comprising the step of converting said text message to speech.

34.   (Previously Presented)   The method recited in Claim 25, wherein said call links between said telephony device and said remote telephony devices are established through a packet-switched communications network.

35.   (Previously Presented)   The method recited in Claim 34, wherein said call links are established using an Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) Session Initiation Protocol (SIP).

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